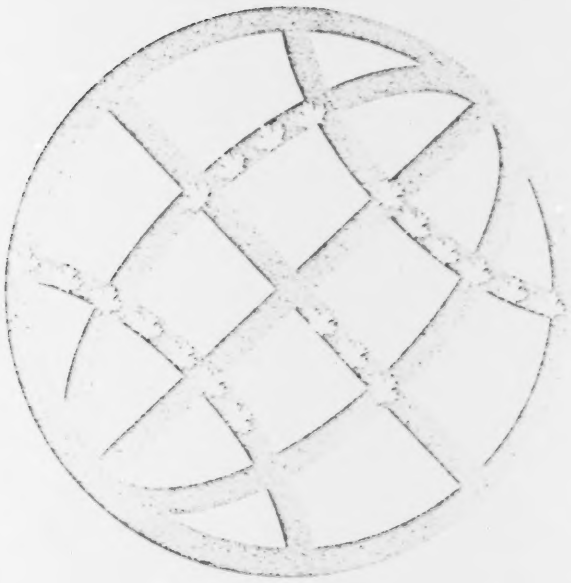
2004.1 E

Canadian Centre
For Foreign Policy
Development

Centre canadien
pour le développement
de la politique étrangère

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT: REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

University of Alberta
International Centre
March 1998



125 promenade Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Telephone/Téléphone : 613 944 8278 Fax/Télécopieur : 613 944 0687
www.cfp-pec.gc.ca

104-00035/

Women and Development:

Reflections on the Past and Challenges for the Future

Conference June 13 and 14, 1997

Edmonton, Alberta

University of Alberta
International Centre

Proceedings

A conference focusing on Women in Development issues was sponsored by MATCH International Centre, the University of Alberta's International Centre and the Centre for International Alternatives; the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development provided funding. This conference was held on the occasion of MATCH International's twentieth anniversary. The proceedings reflected on the achievements of the women's movement over the last twenty years and the challenges of the future. The conference aimed to educate participants about the situation of women from a global perspective and hoped to build on the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Seventy-seven individuals, primarily women, registered for the conference.

The conference agenda and a description of speakers and sponsors is included as Appendix 1.

Mrs. Joyce Kadandara, a prominent Zimbabwean midwife and nurse provided the key note address. Mrs. Kadandara is the WHO's Focal Person on Women's Health and Development for the African Region. Her talk outlined the situation of African women and recommended ten areas of action. These recommendations are attached as Appendix 2.

Dr. Virginia Cawagas, an adjunct professor with the University of Alberta's Centre for International Education and Development, provided an overview of some of the development alternatives women have developed in the Asia region. She included examples from Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, the Philippines, Korea and Japan.

Dr. Cawagas noted the need for careful examination of the assumptions and theoretical paradigms around official development assistance (ODA). For instance, colonial discourse assumes the superiority of the West/North and portrays Third World women as victims of undifferentiated patriarchy and male domination. The liberal discourse on markets assumes the need for growth and free markets and the need to modernize women so they are not obstacles to the free market system. Liberal feminists call for more gender sensitive economic policies to achieve gender equity, but do not question modernization. Socialist feminists reduce discussion to class inequality and do not question the meaning of a good life.

ODA should use the empowerment approach. Women are victims of exploitation, but they are not helpless. ODA should not homogenize women.

Even in the South, women are distinguished by class, ethnicity and race. ODA must recognize the diversity of voices even from the same locale. Furthermore, ODA needs to consider international relationships rather than looking at other countries as though they need change.

Five women of diverse origins and backgrounds participated in a panel discussion reflecting on women's progress and challenges for the future. Dr. Christina Nsaliwa spoke about women in Malawi. She noted that substantial progress had been made due to the UN conferences on women. Women's organizations have been formed and women's issues are being discussed. The National Commission for Women in Development published a book, *Women and the Law*, which provided an overview of women's legal rights. However, there is a need for civic education as women do not know their rights. Furthermore, the way the laws are implemented need to be changed—for instance, though the law provides for 14 years imprisonment for rape, sentences are very lenient. Another pressing need is for AIDS prevention.

Sharon Venne, a lawyer and human rights activist, spoke about the challenges facing Indigenous women. She pointed out that for Indigenous women, the struggle is not for gender equity; the struggle is one of being recognized as a human being with rights like all human beings. The struggle for Indigenous Peoples has been against always being asked to move aside for development.

Indigenous Peoples have been working at the UN on a Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples since 1982. However, Canada, the US, New Zealand and Australia have blocked the Declaration because of provisions indicating that all peoples (including Indigenous Peoples) have the right to self-determination. Furthermore Canada has been opposing the interpretation that "peoples" refers to Indigenous Peoples, thereby recognizing their right to self-determination in Article 1, *Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*.

Currently the Human Genome Diversity Project is undertaking to collect the genes of Indigenous Peoples. In light of the prediction that 722 Indigenous Peoples will be extinct in 75 to 125 years, this $7 billion project is attempting to patent Indigenous Peoples' genetic information.

Ms. Venne pointed out the need for the feminist movement to stop perpetuating the existing power structures of the industrialized countries and to begin an open dialogue on the different cultural perceptions inherent in Indigenous women and women of colour and their right to determine for themselves their political status, and economic and social development needs. (Appendix 3 is a copy of a document some Indigenous women circulated at Beijing.)

Amal Ghazal, a Muslim graduate student from Lebanon, indicated that one of the challenges facing Muslim women in the Middle East is the stereotypes about Muslim women which increase the gap between Muslim and other women. She pointed out that Islamic "revivalism" has given more space to women and has been a motivating factor. Ghazal pointed out, however, that women don't know their rights and that in some instances they suffer from inadequate laws (colonial laws which have not been updated and a lack of Muslim laws). Muslim women suffer from "twisted" and "distorted" Islam (e.g., recent events in Afghanistan) and "cultural" Islam (e.g., Saudi Arabia). Western feminists must recognize that a woman can be a strong feminist with her veil. The veil can be chosen, not imposed or oppressive. Muslim women have been misunderstood and underestimated by western feminists.

Delmy Garcia outlined the position of El Salvadorian women. Women are taught to be submissive, to obey men and to look after children. The Roman Catholic Church has much influence; women do not use birth control and have many children. Few girls finish post-secondary education and few women are in professions—they may be maids, vendors or factory workers. Parents must pay for education so it is difficult for poor families to educate their children. Women work for basic survival. There are no social services and land where people have been repatriated after the civil war is poor. Violence against women is an issue; women stay in abusive situations because they do not have economic alternatives. During the civil war, men and women worked together. Women exchanged their skirts for pants, purses for backpacks, shoes for books and sang songs of justice. This experience has opened a larger role for women in society.

Anne McGrath spoke of the Canadian context and the connection between North and South. The gap between rich and poor is increasing everywhere. The contributing cause is the same—the globalization of business. Governments are becoming more and more ineffective. Justice is regarded as too expensive and citizens are told there are no alternatives because of debt and deficits. Transfer payments are cut, social programs are reduced and disparities increased. The International Labour Organization indicated that at the current rate, it will take 1,000 years for women to achieve economic and political equality worldwide. In Canada, the gap between men's and women's earnings has increased for the first time in 30 years. We need to made connections between issues and to examine issues in the context of both class and gender. McGrath warned against being co-opted into false consensus—a so-called "community of stakeholders."

Following lunch, conference participants broke into four groups to brainstorm strategies for moving forward. The results of these sessions are included as Appendix 4. After group reporting, the conference was adjourned.

The conference's evaluation form and evaluation results are included as Appendix 5.

Following the conference, a group of several women met to develop recommendations grounded in the conference proceedings. This work continued over several months and resulted in the following recommendations.

Women and Peace

Canadian government commitments to create a culture of peace:

Platform for Action[1]

para 146(a): Promote peaceful conflict resolution and peace, reconciliation and tolerance through education, training, community actions and youth exchange programs, in particular for young women;

para 146(d): Consider establishing educational programs....

para 233(h): Promote education... in human rights and international humanitarian law for members of the national security and armed forces, including those assigned to United Nations peace-keeping operations...;

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Take measures to strengthen and support the UN's role in international conflict, i.e. take the decision making from the US and NATO.
2. Train Canadian military personnel in:
   - alternative means of conflict resolution (rather than war)
   - transfer of military skills into peaceful use
   - racial tolerance, cultural issues
   - peace activities such as policing.
3. Pursue an establishment of a special UN unit (non-military, non-violent and gender balanced) for third party conflict resolution.
4. Pursue the creation of an international institution for global peace training and alternatives to military peacekeeping.

Canadian government commitments to military conversion and reduced military spending:

Platform for Action

para 143: (a) Increase and hasten... the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes; (b) Undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources... through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures...;

para 349: ...Governments should reduce... excessive military expenditures and investments for arms production and acquisition....

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Redirect Canadian military spending towards:
   - peace keeping activities and encourage other nations to do the same
   - conversion projects such as development of appropriate technologies for the countries in the South (solar energy is more appropriate in the regions with lots of sunlight; wind energy; clean water and water distribution projects)
   - landmine removal
   - environmental clean up, both military and industrial, in Canada and abroad
   - peace education in schools (conflict resolution and anti-racism).

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, Beijing, September 1995.

2. Redirect expenditures for military research into peace research, helping to solve problems of clean water and water distribution and alternative energy (wind and solar) in developing countries.

Canadian government commitments to complete and general disarmaments:

Platform for Action

para 143(f): (i) Work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control; (ii) Support negotiations on the conclusion, without delay, of a universal and multilateral and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects; [also the Beijing Declaration, para 28]

para 143(e)(v): Adopt... a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines...;

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Immediately stop trading with and selling arms, military components, as well as dual purpose equipment to countries with repressive regimes or at war and countries supporting and/or fueling armed conflict in the world.
2. Continue to promote and work towards such initiatives as the now successful ban on anti-personnel landmines; work towards total ban on landmines and destruction of existing stock piles around the world.

Canadian government commitments to increased participation of women:

Platform for Action

para 144(c): Strengthen the role of women and ensure equal representation of women at all decision-making levels in national and international institutions which make or influence policy... related to peace-keeping, preventive diplomacy and related activities and in all stages of peace mediation and negotiations....

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Encourage gender balance in the institution of the UN by actively supporting recruitment of women into all levels of decision making positions; lobby other governments to fulfill their commitments to women in their respective countries.
2. Actively recruit women into all levels of government and into all levels of decision making positions in Canada, including positions with international duties, such as CIDA and Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Women and Economy

Platform for Action

para 165: (c) ...take effective measures to ensure that pregnant women, women on maternity leave or women re-entering the labour market after childbearing are not discriminated against; (g) Seek to develop a more comprehensive knowledge of work and employment through... efforts to measure and better understand the type, extent and distribution of unremunerated work...; (l) Ensure that all corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws; (r) Reform

laws or enact national policies that support the establishment of labour laws to ensure the protection of all women workers, including safe work practices, the right to organize and access to justice.

para 166(l): Safeguard and promote respect for basic workers' rights, including the prohibition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value and non-discrimination in employment, fully implementing the conventions of the International Labour Organization in order to achieve truly sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Recommendations

The Canadian government undertake the following actions and encourage other governments, particularly the ones in developing countries, to:

1. Recognize unremunerated work that women do, including caring for dependents, working for family farms and businesses and working in the community (para 165(g)).
2. Establish and reform labour laws to ensure the protection of all women workers including safe work practices, the right to organize and access to justice (para 165(r)). These laws must ensure that women are free from forced labour, that they work at a fair wage and for an appropriate number of hours a day, that women are not discriminated on the basis of age, and that child labour is prohibited.
3. Implement and, where in existence, improve and/or enhance maternity leave rights (para 165(c)).
4. Ensure that transnational companies adhere to international labour codes and standards so that women producing corporate products in all countries are ensured safe work practices, the right to organize and access to justice (para 165(l)).
5. Pressure all countries and transnational corporations which import products into Canada to apply fair and equitable labour laws which ensure the protection of all women workers.
6. Work towards amendments to international trade agreements to include the ability to impose tariffs on any goods produced by transnational corporations under adverse, unjust work conditions.

Women and Poverty

Platform for Action

para 58(b): Analyze, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes—including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments and employment... with respect to their impact on... family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

Recommendations

The Canadian government recognize poverty within an holistic paradigm and encourage and lobby other governments, particularly those of developing countries, to do so. For example, child poverty cannot be separated from the issue of debt reduction and GNP. Food security, child care, housing, fair wages and global restructuring are all important areas that must be addressed when discussing poverty.

Education and Training of Women

Platform for Action

para 81: (a) Reduce the female illiteracy rate...; (c) Eliminate the gender gap in basic and functional literacy...;

Recommendations

The Canadian government undertake the following actions and encourage and lobby other governments, particularly those of developing countries, to:

1. Acknowledge the crucial role of basic education and literacy in empowering and enabling girls and women to take control of their lives, to make choices and fully participate in social, economic, cultural and political issues.
2. Enact policies and provide sufficient funds to provide literacy programs for women.
3. Support non-governmental organizations and projects which educate women about democracy, their rights, and provide civic education.

Women and Health

Platform for Action

para 106(c): Design and implement, in cooperation with women and community-based organizations....

para 106(e): Provide more accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care....

Recommendations

The Canadian government undertake the following actions and encourage and lobby other governments, particularly the ones in developing countries, to:

1. Design and incorporate health programs with women's and community-based organizations to enhance the responsiveness of health care systems to the health needs and concerns of women.
2. Develop and sustain woman centered community health delivery centers.
3. Provide and maintain appropriate health programs that focus on educating the girl child and women about their health, sexuality and reproduction.
4. Acknowledge and understand that health delivery is an economic activity.
5. Support Canadian non-governmental organizations that work in partnership with groups in developing countries in the above noted activities.

Human Rights

Platform for Action

para 205(c) ...undertake activities focusing on legal reform...;

para 217: The gap between the existence of rights and their effective enjoyment derives from a lack of commitment by Governments to promoting and protecting those rights and the failure of Governments to inform women and men alike about them....

para 227: ...Provision of human rights education is essential for promoting an understanding of the human rights of women, including knowledge of recourse mechanisms to redress violations of their rights. It is necessary for all individuals, especially women in vulnerable circumstances, to have full knowledge of their rights and access to legal recourse against violations of their rights.

para 230: (e) Create or strengthen independent national institutions for the protection and promotion of these rights, including the human rights of women, as recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights; (f) Develop a comprehensive human rights education programme to raise awareness among women of their human rights and raise awareness among others of the human rights of women; (o) Taking into account the need to ensure full respect for the human rights of indigenous women, consider a declaration on the rights of indigenous people for adoption by the General Assembly within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and encourage the participation of indigenous women in the working group elaborating the draft declaration, in accordance with the provisions for the participation of organizations of indigenous people.

para 232: (b) Provide constitutional guarantees and/or enact appropriate legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex for all women and girls of all ages and assure women of all ages equal rights and their full enjoyment; (i) Provide gender-sensitive human rights education and training to public officials, including, inter alia, police and military personnel, corrections officers, health and medical personnel, and social workers, including people who deal with migration and refugee issues, and teachers at all levels of the educational system, and make available such education and training also to the judiciary and members of parliament in order to enable them to better exercise their public responsibilities; (n) Strengthen existing or establish readily available and free or affordable alternative administrative mechanisms and legal aid programmes to assist disadvantaged women seeking redress for violations of their rights;

para 233 (a) Translate... publicize and disseminate laws and information relating to the equal status and human rights of all women...; (d) Include information about international and regional instruments and standards...; (e) Make widely available and fully publicize information on the existence of national, regional and international mechanisms for seeking redress when the human rights of women are violated; (f) ...implement programmes in human rights education to make women aware of their human rights; (h) Promote education in all countries in human rights and international humanitarian law for members of the national security and armed forces...;

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Support programs and projects which focus on legal reform to protect women's rights (para 205(c)), help women achieve legal literacy (para 233), strengthen women's ability to exercise their rights (para 217-219) and assist women in ensuring their rights are enforced (para 227). These projects would include the development of legislation to prohibit discrimination (para 232(b)), the development of independent national institutions to protect human rights (para 230(e)), human rights education programs (para 230(f)), gender-sensitive human rights education and training for the police and judiciary (para 232(i)), and legal aid programs for disadvantaged women (para 232(n)).
2. Reverse the position it has taken in the Commission on Human Rights' Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on the elaboration of a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to include the use of the word "Peoples" in recognition of the plurality and distinct identities of Indigenous Peoples and their right to self-determination. Furthermore, Canada should loosen its rigid criteria for Indigenous Peoples who appear before the Inter-sessional working group to enable broad participation. Para 230(o), urges the adoption of a declaration within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

3. Recognize that the term "peoples" in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights includes Indigenous Peoples, thereby recognizing that Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination (Article 1 of both covenants).

4. Oppose the collection and patenting of indigenous genes through the Human Genome Diversity Project. Canada should not allow the patenting of human genes, should ensure there is no state funding for such projects and should discourage Universities from undertaking such research.

Institutional Mechanisms

Platform for Action

para 204: (a) Seek to ensure that before policy decisions are taken, an analysis of their impact on women and men, respectively, is carried out; (b) Regularly review national policies, programmes and projects, as well as their implementation, evaluating the impact of employment and income policies in order to guarantee that women are direct beneficiaries of development and that their full contribution to development, both remunerated and unremunderated, is considered in economic policy and planning;

para 205(a): ...ensure mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policy-making processes;

para 209: ...Encourage and support the development of national capacity in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition by providing resources and technical assistance so that countries can fully measure the work done my women and men, including both remunerated and unremunerated work, and, where appropriate, use satellite or other official accounts for unremunerated work.

In order to provide a gender-based analysis of the impact of policies and programs, there is a need to develop mechanisms for the collection of gender-disaggregated data. Furthermore, for the work of women to be valued and the status of women improved, data on unremunerated work of women should be gathered.

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Continue to develop and apply improved methods for gender analysis of ODA projects, and to press for enhanced analysis by multilateral agencies.

2. Encourage and support the development of national capacity in countries of the South to undertake gender-impact analysis, to collect gender-disaggregated data and to fully measure the work done by women and men, including both remunerated and unremunerated work, and, where appropriate, use satellite or other official accounts for unremunerated work as agreed in the Beijing Platform (para 209).

Funds and Resources

Platform for Action

para 353: Adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. Strengthening national capacities in developing countries to implement the Platform for Action will require striving for the fulfillment of the agreed target of 0.7% of the gross national product of developed countries for

overall official development assistance as soon as possible, as well as increasing the share of funding for activities designed to implement the Platform for Action. Furthermore, countries involved in development cooperation should conduct a critical analysis of their assistance programs so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid throughout the integration of a gender approach....

In 1995, the Canadian government reaffirmed its commitment to spending 0.7% of GNP on ODA by adopting the *Platform for Action* document.

Yet, inspite of this commitment, cuts to Canada's ODA budget mean that in 1997-98 Canada committed only .30% of its GNP to ODA, and that by 2000/01 ODA will be only .25% of GNP. This is a reduction of 40% in the ODA budget since 1991-92.

In 1995-96 CIDA committed $52 million to Women in Development programming. This is 2.4% of the ODA budget or 3.2% of the CIDA budget.

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Reverse cuts to ODA. Canada must begin to meet its obligation as a signatory to the Beijing *Platform for Action* to increase ODA to 0.7% of GNP (para 353).
2. Designate a larger proportion of Canada's aid to meeting the objectives of the Beijing *Platform for Action* (para 353).

Development and Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Recommendations

The Canadian government:

1. Carefully examine the assumptions and theoretical paradigm of development and Official Development Assistance (ODA). The existing global economic system based on "free" market principles and reducing the role of government in re-distributing wealth is increasing women's inequalities. So, while the Canadian government may genuinely support the *Platform for Action*, by promoting trade liberalization, deregulation and privatization, the government is promoting policies which adversely affect women. Canadian government policy is, therefore, contradictory.
2. Withdraw its support of economic globalization and trade liberalization as advanced in free trade agreements, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which promote "cheap labour" and the mobility of capital to the detriment of women.

3. Push for reform of the international financial institutions (IFIs) and the devastating structural adjustment programs they have imposed in the South, which have generated mass poverty, particularly among women and children. The Canadian government should support the early cancellation of debt of poor countries by calling on the IFIs to adopt new or adjust existing measures under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative to ensure the most generous provision of debt reduction to the most countries over the shortest time period.

4. Support ODA projects which empower women in developing alternatives to the economic structures which impoverish them and which strengthen women's transborder networking with each other.
5. Support policies and ODA which recognize the diversity of women and respects their efforts at self-determination.

Appendix 1

Women in Development:
Reflections on the Past and Challenges for the Future
June 13 and 14, 1997

Agenda

Friday, June 13

6:30 p.m.	Registration 1-5 Business Building
7:30 p.m.	Opening Remarks Keynote Address: Women's Health and Development ***Joyce Kadandara***
8:30 - 11:30 p.m.	A reception will be held following the opening remarks at the International Centre, 172 HUB International (9101 sidewalk level)

Saturday, June 14

9:00 a.m.	Registration 1-5 Business Building
9:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks ***Hana Razga***
9:45 a.m.	Asian Women's Alternatives in Action ***Virginia Cawagas***
10:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break International Centre
11:00 a.m.	Panel Discussion Reflections and Challenges 1-5 Business Building ***Delmy Garcia, Amal Ghazal, Anne McGrath, Christina Nsaliwa, Sharon Venne***
1:00 p.m.	Lunch International Centre Music by ***Asani (Aboriginal Women's Vocal Ensemble)***
2:00 p.m.	Strategies for Moving Forward 1-5 Business Building ***Hana Razga***
4:00 p.m.	Adjournment

"Women in Development: Reflections on the past and challenges for the future"

June 13 and 14, 1997

Presenters

Friday, June 13

Joyce Kadandara is a nurse, midwife and Zimbabwe's Chief Nursing Officer. Mrs. Kadandara participated in the Zimbabwean delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. She currently is a member of the World Health Organizations' (WHO) Global Commission on Women's Health and is WHO's Intercountry Focal Person on Women's Health and Development for the African Region.

Saturday, June 14

Virginia F. Cawagas is an Adjunct Professor at the Dept. of Educational Policy Studies and Associate of the Centre for International Education and Development, University of Alberta. In Canada she is actively involved with the Ten Days for Global Justice as International Partner and Resource Speaker. She has participated in Filipino NGOs such as the National Coalition for Peace, PILIPINA, and DAWN. Her current research interests include the impact of debt on women, women migrant workers, and the politics of patriarchy in war and peace.

Delmy Garcia, a social worker who works with women at the Bissell Centre in Edmonton's inner city, came to Canada from El Salvador twelve years ago. While in El Salvador she worked with refugees displaced by the civil war. She continues this work through projects supported by base Christian communities in El Salvador and the Land to Hands project of the Change for Children Association.

Amal Ghazal is a graduate student at the University of Alberta from Lebanon specializing in Arab and Near Eastern history. She has written on the role of women in the liberal Islamic movements and in mystical Islam. She participated in the foundation of an Islamic journal in Lebanon which is run by women only.

(over)

Anne McGrath is a Canadian programmer with Oxfam Canada. She has been active in the Canadian women's movement for approximately 20 years doing paid, unpaid and underpaid work. She has been involved with the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and is active in a variety of community organizations.

Christina Nsaliwa of Malawi has received her PhD in Educational Administration and is a lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. She is President of the Southern African Cultural and Development Association and is on the Monitoring Committee of the Alberta Youth Animation Project on Southern Africa.

Hana Razga is Vice-President of MATCH International Centre. She is a public education volunteer with the Edmonton Women's Shelter and an employee of Transport Canada. Currently on sabbatical, she has raised issues of concern to women as a candidate in the provincial and federal elections and hopes to be a MP by the date of the conference.

Sharon Venne, lawyer and human rights activist, has been an advisor to First Nations in Canada and is active on behalf of indigenous peoples internationally, particularly at the United Nations. She is member of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and the International Organization for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Asani (Aboriginal Women's Vocal Ensemble) in the Cree language means "Rock". This five member Aboriginal women's vocal ensemble is built on the rock-solid foundation of musical expertise, culture, community service and sisterhood. They hope you enjoy their original compositions and arrangements of songs with a message; rendered with acoustic accompaniment or in "a cappella" styling.

"Women in Development: Reflections on the past and challenges for the future"

June 13 and 14, 1997

Sponsors

MATCH International Centre is a women's organization guided by a feminist vision of sustainable development which recognizes the diverse realities of women and respects their efforts at self-determination. Based in Ottawa, the non-governmental organization was established in 1976. MATCH works in partnership with women's groups to bring about reforms to their societies that will allow them to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms. MATCH strives for the eradication of all forms of violence against women and works to strengthen the women's movement nationally and internationally. MATCH receives financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency and from donors.

The International Centre, University of Alberta, serves students by offering programs which facilitate direct access to an international education and by fostering an international dimension on campus. The Global Education Program, one of three programs at the Centre, raises awareness in the university and broader Edmonton communities about global issues including sustainable human development, South-North relations, human rights, environmental, security, and gender issues.

The Centre for International Alternatives provides educational resources and programs to bring about positive social change. The Centre is a non-profit organization run by volunteers and sustained through memberships. The Women's Program focuses on women's issues and participates with other organizations to bring together women's groups within the Edmonton area through networking and sharing of information.

The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development provided funding through the John Holmes Fund.

The Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta sponsored Mrs. Joyce Kadandara's visit to Edmonton.

Appendix 2

WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES

Empowering Women's Health in Poverty

Some Facts and Action Needed

1. In the world today, national conflicts, domestic conflicts, displaced women and their children are roaming the streets, the forests, hungry, frightened, unclothed and suffering immense physiological and psychological traumas and dying in large numbers or maimed. What can we do to alleviate the problems?

Action:

As concerned women of the world, we can no longer remain silent and in the background we must advocate for peace, understanding and better resolutions of conflicts.

2. Poverty in terms of daily needs - shelter and food. Poverty of the mind due to lack of basic information and education affects more women and the girl child more than their male counterparts.

Action:

- Advocate for economic policies that support women's livelihoods.

- Help women "Read their World" by providing information and education on a sustained basis.

3. Maternal Mortality (283/100,000 Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey) and morbidity rates in developing countries and in some developed inner cities are unacceptably high. Women who die in child-birth across the globe would fill a couple of the largest Jumbo-Jets. But Do Nations Care?

Action:

- Better Health intervention programmes to save the women who are producers of humanity.

- Resources and Health information and appropriate services must be provided.

4. In most parts of the world especially the developing world, women spend as much as 28% of their time pregnant; 65% lactating (WHO informal report on hookworm information). What time do they have for other activities to develop themselves?

Action:

Provide relevant information and services to women/men on Reproductive Health and family planning services.

5. In Zimbabwe 74% of female households are classified as poor/very poor compared to 57% of the male headed households (1995 Zimbabwe assessment survey study preliminary report). Poverty is the deadliest diseases affecting men and worse still women.

Action:

- **Advocate for better education, skills development, land ownership by women and proper utilisation.**

- **Positive policies to bring women into the main stream of development.**

6. Teenage pregnancies are unacceptably high including unwanted pregnancies by women of all ages.

Action:

- **Improve parenting skills and communication systems.**

- **Love, care, support and educate the girl and boy child.**

7. School dropout rates are high for girls for a variety of reasons:-

- Poverty and early pregnancies
- Feeling inferior and worthless
- No skills to sell
- Early marriage, early births and early death.

Action:

- Help families view their children as gifts from God who are all equal before his eyes.

- Support the girl child at all levels with love, care, support and no discriminatory actions.

8. STI/HIV/AIDS pandemic is playing havoc with many people. Sub-Saharan Africa has its major share of the problem and other communicable diseases like malaria do affect an individual's ability to perform daily tasks.

Action:

- **Give Health information and Education to both men, women and children.**
- **Advocate for changes in the Traditional roles and practices which give men a free-range of sexual promiscuity and less responsibilities in issues of sex and the negative outcomes.**

9. Health and Education are basic human rights, denied to many women and the girl child.

Action:

Increase the flow of relevant information and give women basic education and a high standard of health care services

10. Poor living environment - housing, water and sanitation - general land degradation.

Action:

- The above issues to stay at the top of the agenda of families and government.

- Work hard to influence Government policies, attitudes and resource allocations.

- Provide better affordable housing, water and proper sanitation.

- Ensure public health security.

Appendix 3

1995 FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING, CHINA

GENDER EQUITY VS. SELF-DETERMINATION OF WOMEN

Indigenous women challenge women from throughout the world to begin serious dialogue on the premise of gender equality. Underlying the issue of gender equality is the assumption that women simply want an equal share of what men have, ie. our fair share of the seats in the corporate board room. The "gender equality assumption" merely serves to perpetuate the existing power structures of the industrialized countries. The feminist movement in the United States and elsewhere must begin an open dialogue on the different cultural precepts inherent in indigenous women and women of colour's right to determine for themselves their political status, economic, and social development needs. Following are basic discussion points to begin this critical stage of building a truly inclusive global women's movement.

"Self-Determination" is a concept established in international law as a fundamental human right. Most of the nation states in the UN have already endorsed this concept. "Gender equity" is not established in international law, nor have nation states committed their support for the concept.

The UN Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights guarantee to all people the right of **self-determination**. These international standards state:

> All peoples have the right to **self-determination**. By virtue of that right they may freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and political development.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The global strategy for the women's movement should be enunciated in terms of the self-determination of women, rather than gender equity. The primary assertion is that the right of all peoples to self-determination which is well established in international law cannot be realized while women continue to be marginalized and prevented from becoming full participants in their respective societies.

"Self--determination" is an inclusive concept which incorporates issues of vital concern to indigenous women and women of colour. "Gender equity" is a narrow concept which focuses on

sex-based discrimination and which has been manipulated by nation states to avoid issues of racial, environmental, civil, political and cultural inequities.

There are stark differences in the way women of colour and indigenous women define and perceive the issues impacting their lives. For example:

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOUR

1a. INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOUR FRAME THE ISSUE IN TERMS OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF WOMEN. IE. WOMEN'S RIGHT TO DETERMINE FOR THEMSELVES THEIR POLITICAL STATUS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Dominant Culture Feminist Movement

1b. Frames the issue in terms of "gender equity". Focus is on sexual distinctions; goal is to get women an equal share of power and resources.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOUR

2a. "SELF-DETERMINATION" PRESENTS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO DOMINANT CULTURES, RACISM AND ECONOMICS. IT PROVIDES THE BASIS TO BEGIN REDEFINING GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES BASED UPON PEOPLES' NEEDS VERSUS PROFIT.

Dominant Culture Feminist Movement

2b. Gender equity fails to acknowledge or challenge racism, economic disparity, and environmental injustices. It presupposes that the goal is achieved if women get their share of power and resources. Typically, this means that women of the "dominant" culture get their share of power and resources.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOUR

3a. INDIGENOUS SOCIETIES BELIEVE THAT WOMEN HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS MEN; WOMEN'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES ARE DISTINCT FROM MEN. WHEN WOMEN AND MEN FOLLOW THE ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS, THERE IS COMPLEMENTARY BALANCE. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE MEN, NOR DO WE WANT TO FIGHT MEN. WE WANT TO FIGHT SEXISM.

Dominant Culture Feminist Movement

3b. Gender equity wants "equality" between the sexes, ie. adopting the white male value system or aggression, competition and dominance. This ignores the distinct sexual differences into the homogenous and disregards the value systems implicit in matrilineal societies. The essence of the feminine is lost and the trade-off is a share of the power and wealth of the existing power structures.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOUR

4a. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CULTURES ARE THE ONLY REMAINING MATRILINEAL SOCIETIES LEFT IN THE WORLD. MALE DOMINATED WESTERN GOVERNMENTS USED "COLONIZATION" TO DESTROY MATRILINEAL SOCIETIES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF STEALING LANDS AND RESOURCES, (IE. 1820 LAW "CIVILIZATION ACT" PROVIDED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO REMOVE WOMEN FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL ROLES IN SELF-GOVERNANCE AND SPIRITUAL POSITIONS).

Dominant Culture Feminist Movement

4b. White, dominant culture is now patrilineal. When women achieve gender equity in their societies, the male dominated patrilineal paradigms are preserved. This is demonstrated by the example of voting rights which were won after 72 years of struggle yet achieving those rights did not change United States policies regarding militarism, consumption, racism, and economics. Women of colour are still prey to racism, poverty, and hegemony.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND WOMEN OF COLOUR

5a. THE POLITICAL AGENDA DEFINED BY INDIGENOUS WOMEN IS BROADER AND INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE PERPETUATION OF OUR PEOPLES, LAND RIGHTS, CULTURE AND RELIGION, POLITICAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS; ACCESS TO HOUSING AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS.

Dominant Culture Feminist Movement:

5b. The dominant culture feminist political agenda excludes the issues beyond those established by dominant culture's women. There is a failure to expand the agenda to include the issues as defined by Indigenous women and women of colour, resulting in perpetuation of the existing power structure. Gender equity is simply integrating dominant culture feminists into this power structure.

5b. Indigenous women and women of colour have been and continue to be victims of racism,

colonization and imperialism. We believe that the empowerment of women must be achieved within the context of "self-determination", and we call for the dismantling of all forms of global oppression. The struggle for "gender equity" takes place outside of the context of decolonization and inherently precludes us from attaining true liberation. The privileges of the dominant civilizations have been gained at the expense of Indigenous women and the cultures and societies and peoples at other impoverished nation states. True "gender equity" can only be achieved within an anti-colonial and anti-imperialist framework.

IV BEGINNING THE DIALOGUE:

If the women's movement is to continue to grow and expand globally it must address the fundamental issues being addresses by women of colour and indigenous women who comprise the majority of the women of the world.

The time has come for this dialogue to begin. This challenge to mainstream dominant society feminist groups and NGO's is issued in the spirit of sisterhood. We call upon all women involved in the movement to consider these issues. We believe that regional conferences, meetings and retreats need to be held where women of colour, indigenous women and other women in the feminist movement can begin the struggle on these issues.

The issue is a difficult one. Struggling with our racism, classism and cultural differences is always difficult. Remember - a difficult birth doesn't make the baby any less beautiful.

Appendix 4

"Women in Development: Reflections on the Past and Challenges for the Future" Conference, June 13 - 14, 1997

Results of the Saturday afternoon brainstorming session

Group 1 (Hana Razga chair)

- Peacekeeping -- redirect spending towards
- Strengthening UN's role re: international conflicts
- Alternative means of conflict resolution (not wars)
- World debt
- Training of military personnel re: elimination of racism (Somalia affair)
- Peace education at home
- Power balance in UN
- Looking at other (appropriate) technologies
- Transfer of skills
- Regulations issues -- i.e., manufacturing components in Canada and assembly somewhere else
- Re-training military personnel into peace activities -- i.e., policing
- Land mine removal
- Environmental clean up
- Redirecting military research into peace research (clean water, solar power)

Group 2 (Tigist Dafla chair; Cheryl Mahaffy reporter)

- Reinstitute .07 of GDP to untied international aid
- Labour laws & foreign investments
    - fair wage
    - caps on hours of work
    - environmental studies required
    - age discrimination disallowed
    - laws against child labour including mandatory age
- Value for unpaid work
  -- e.g., protection upon retirement or in case of disability
- Reject proposed multilateral trade agreement as means of using human labour to maximize multinational corporations; profits ... giving away the financial rule of the world
- Laws to protect migrant workers and refugees
- Understand our role in supporting multinationals through our lifestyles and buying habits; examine our principles and actions before dictating
- Our actions should not adversely affect people on the other side of the world

- How to do that? Impose tariff on any goods produced under adverse (and worse) working conditions
- Recognize mass production of consumer goods as WASTE
- Support and **publicize** small earth and people-friendly enterprises and encourage those to develop international links
- x% of trade must come from such enterprises
- Require nationally owned media to publicize such enterprises
- Equal access to free education and day care
- Promote child care cooperatives and other opportunities
- Require needs assessment by local people when initiatives/companies are proposed
- Make NGOs and other grant recipients accountable for making sure that real voices are at the table -- and that grassroots people benefit

Group 3 (Anne McGrath chair; Kumarie Achaibar-Morrison reporter)

International obligations of Canadian government
Issues of concern

- Poverty -- as a holistic paradigm
  - systemic
  - integrated -- e.g., child poverty cannot be separated from the issue of debt reduction and GNP
- Overseas development assistance: are we concerned about human need? ODA seems to sustain and further entrench governments that are not accountable to local population
- Human rights -- trade policies that reinforce injustice
- How do we make our representatives accountable? re: examine civic structures
- How "literate" are we for life -- making connections
- Arms trade -- challenge government about why a nation who claims to be a "peacemaker" sells arms components
- Discrimination in Canada so subtle -- undermines targets to aim at; support initiatives that investigate systemic racism
- Equality of opportunity is not equality of condition
- As educators you have to take a stance

Group 4 (Chris Nsaliwa chair; Edith Baragar reporter)

1. Water 2. Energy 3. Peace/military Conversion

- Gender concerns should be integrated into the planning, design and implementation of development projects from the initial stages
- Maternal education/reproductive health should be emphasized in health delivery

- Recognize that knowledge means power and that women receive the same opportunity for learning in development projects as the men
- Any CIDA funded project intended to affect the income generation potential (or productivity) of a population be evaluated based on the impact on the relative value of women's labour -- measure of equity, measure of gender impact
- That projects be designed and implemented with holistic approach ... in their design systemically evaluated with respect to its holistic effect: water, sanitation, income, health, agriculture and also in its effect: psychological, economic, political
- Policy/law is OK but the "progress" we expect from it is not being realized
- Implement
- Empowerment/Education
- Essential components of the human development paradigm: Sustainability, equity, empowerment, production must be taken into consideration in all work
- Basic education should include civic education including history and culture (but not the official story) and human rights, democracy
- Implementation of maternity rights (leave)
- Ask what people need, not impose values
- Recommend that "development" be recognized as a "modern viewpoint" and that the implied "progress" hasn't happened; "developing" countries are not "developing".
- Development has had many successes and the projects that have worked should be replicated where appropriate
- Use local expertise, including indigenous knowledge
- Local experts are not always expert
- Consider total well being of women in the evaluation of impact of projects
- If government creates barriers, the programmers with local consensus should work to eliminate the barriers in the interest of the people
- That health delivery be considered an economic activity too and that health projects impose a health delivery system which reflects the inequitable system from which it originated; the displacement of women centred delivery systems needs to be accounted for...

Also presented in paper form from group 4

- Assessing the impact on the market value of women's labour

- For any CIDA funded project intended to affect the income generation potential even the productivity of a population, that an evaluation of the impact on the relative value of women's labour be assessed

- This is premised on the documented theory that the market value of women is correlated with their assessed value in the household; in simplistic terms, if women's labour is dispensable in the market place as wives and mothers, they also become dispensable ... easily replaced or more thoroughly exploited.

- Over all evaluation of all projects should be assessed ... recognizing that some projects will negatively affect the labour value of women and some have the potential to positively effect the market value of women's labour.

Examples:

1. Improved agricultural practices where predominantly it is men who own the land and its harvest decreases the relative market value of women's labour; alternatively, where women control animal husbandry systems (usually small animals) projects may improve the economic value of women's activities; it can prevent women from becoming economically redundant, save them from domestic labour in the city
2. A mill, if it employs only men and processes crops which utilize primarily men's labour power; the project affects positively the value of men's labour
3. A dam, if it irrigates land owned by men ...
4. New roads, if they render women walking to market no longer competitive, then it may negatively affect the market value of women's labour
5. Health projects recognize health as industry generally impose a health delivery system which reflects the patriarchal cultural system from where it originated; the displacement of a women centred health delivery system needs to be accounted for -- recognize this as **industry**
6. School/education projects -- girls schools too

Appendix 5

Women in Development: Reflections on the Past and Challenges for the Future
June 13 and 14, 1997

Evaluation

How did you hear about the conference?

- ❑ Received a letter from MATCH International Centre.
- ❑ Received a brochure from the University of Alberta's International Centre.
- ❑ Received a notice from the Centre for International Alternatives.
- ❑ Received a notice by e-mail.
- ❑ Heard a Public Service Announcement on radio.
- ❑ Saw information on the U of A's International Centre website.
- ❑ Heard about the conference from a friend.
- ❑ Other. Please explain. _____

The conference was well organized.

❑ strongly agree ❑ agree ❑ neutral ❑ disagree ❑ strongly disagree

I feel the conference added to my prior knowledge of the subject.

❑ strongly agree ❑ agree ❑ neutral ❑ disagree ❑ strongly disagree

The conference has inspired me to become more involved in promoting sustainable development which recognizes the diverse realities of women and respects their efforts at self-determination.

❑ strongly agree ❑ agree ❑ neutral ❑ disagree ❑ strongly disagree

Please rate each of the following conference sessions from excellent (4) to poor (1)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Friday				
Keynote address – Joyce Kadandara	4	3	2	1
Saturday				
Opening session – Virginia Cawagas	4	3	2	1
Panel Discussion	4	3	2	1
Strategies for moving forward	4	3	2	1

Please clarify any negative assessment recorded above. What could be improved?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the conference?

_____

_____

_____

Women in Development: Reflections on the Past and Challenges for the Future: June 13 and 14, 1997

Evaluation Results: 40 questionnaires returned

How did you hear about the conference?

(6) Received a letter from MATCH International Centre.
(13) Received a brochure from the University of Alberta's International Centre.
* Many thanks.
(6) Received a notice from the Centre for International Alternatives.
(6) Received a notice by e-mail.
(0) Heard a Public Service Announcement on radio.
(11) Heard about the conference from a friend.
(10) Other:
1 - I volunteered for the International Ctr.
1 - Centre For International Alternatives
1 - Through MSA (Muslim Students' Association)
1 - Nancy - International Centre
1 - Nancy Hannemann & IC poster
1 - Saw a poster & brochure at Centre for International Centre
1 - Called by Nancy Hannemann
1 - Was forwarded e-mail through UNICEF
1 - Heard about the conference from mother.
1 - Heard from Changing Together: Centre For Immigrant Women

The conference was well organized.

(29) Strongly Agree
(9) Agree
(1) Neutral
(0) Disagree
(0) Strongly Disagree

I feel the conference added to my prior knowledge of the subject.

(25) Strongly Agree
(10) Agree
(4) Neutral
(0) Disagree
(0) Strongly Disagree

The conference has inspired me to become more involved in promoting sustainable development which recognizes the diverse realities of women and respects their efforts at self-determination.

(20) Strongly Agree
(15) Agree
(3) Neutral
(0) Disagree
(0) Strongly Disagree
(1) No Response

Please rate each of the following conference sessions from excellent (4) to poor (1)

Friday - Keynote address - Joyce Kadandara

(24) Excellent
(5) Good
(1) Fair
(0) Poor
(4) Did Not Attend/Not Applicable
(4) No Response
* Wasn't here.

Saturday - Opening Session - Virginia Cawagas

(19) Excellent
(15) Good
(3) Fair
(0) Poor
(2) Did Not Attend/Not Applicable

Saturday - Panel Discussion

(26) Excellent
** (1) New category added (3.5) - between Excellent & Good
(13) Good
(0) Fair
(0) Poor

Saturday - Strategies for moving forward

(4) Excellent
(20) Good
(7) Fair
(1) Poor
(1) Did Not Attend/Not Applicable
(6) No Response
* I was tired here!
* Sorry, I had to miss this session!

Please clarify any negative assessment recorded above. What could be improved?

(22) Attendees responded to question
(17) Attendees did not respond to question
(1) Not Applicable

* The speakers & topics were fine. I would have only assessed them as "excellent" if they were amazing but this depends on the speakers available. I found the process quite open.
* Working session (2 pm) was least successful for me - perhaps reflects my own lack of background on alphabet soup of shelved promises.
* It would be interesting to have speakers talk on specific topics rather than giving a general view of their countries issues. Issues are everywhere however speakers demand in their talks that Canadian women need to take steps to help women in their countries! I am sure each country can take major steps to help themselves. Canadian women have to look at their own issues of domestic violence, poverty, etc.
* Interactive sessions increased involvement & connection with other participants. An informative conference. Thanx. (sic)
* Was reading her presentation (group 1). Did not give us a choice to discuss strategies, but imposed the topic of militarism on us.
* Opening session: she gave lots of information, it's not easy to grasp.
* The brainstorming workshops was a little bit disorganized. Facilitators and participants should be given discussion guidelines to make the workshop effective.
* I didn't really learn anything new. I'd like to take part in a follow-up session that is a bit more goal-oriented ie: setting up various networks around issues that could meet independently or bringing in resources/people that people could be directed to.
* Virginia talks too fast! Would be helpful if overheads were used outlining main points/headlines. She ?? a lot of useful background info. however was a challenge to keep up and/or provide on a handout to follow.
* Although it was a very important session, I found the final session rather frustrating perhaps because the facilitator spoke more than was necessary/more than others in the group (?) (military discussion).
* Good panel speakers - a diverse group & informative. The charismatic personality of J. Kadandara was energizing; a good plan to have her as opening speaker.
* I still didn't know what we as Canadian women could do to help other women - even in Canada or outside - in a practical sense.
* Still a mentality & process which aims at "efficiency" but not us taking personal responsibility for who gets to be heard (ie. a democratic process). We need to work on this more ourselves and not squeeze it into non-existance (sic) (or proclaim to export it).
* Excellent! Only suggestion is MORE, MORE, MORE! More speakers on Friday night?? Longer conference??

* The panel discussion was extremly (sic) informative. Maybe two days would be better. I could have listened to all those speakers for alot (sic) longer than the time that was aliowed. Very interesting. Great choise (sic) of speakers.
* Low point - energy level down. Slow start to discussion groups. Not clear what participants role would be. Intro. far too long!
* CIDA's involvement was important to me. I'm sorry the speaker could not come. I had difficulties with Kadandara's views on environment & culture.
* Lack of time, lack of a process to come to some conclusions about our concerns.
* N/A.
* Could have had a bit more participation beyond presentation. Time was a bit limited for feedback, comments, etc. Music at lunch was fabulous but we needed a bit of a break. Perhaps the lunch could have been left free and the music to begin one of the sessions instead.
* Facilitator needed to keep ideas focused so discussion would have more centralized impact - ideas geared to development of a central point.
* Purpose of brainstorming not very clear to me - how info. will be evaluated & used. Seemed to be a big leap from the sessions with speakers straight to brainstorming - you assumed people knew what the govt/NGOs etc. are doing. Maybe a bit more bridging would have been helpful. Also this part of the conference [Strategies For Moving Forward] happened during the after lunch "low" which made it more difficult to concentrate so maybe I just missed something.
* Unfortunately, I had difficulty in understanding the role of the speaker Razga. She reminded me of a privileged woman who has the solutions for the "poor" but certainly removed away from these situations. Her input typically illustrates the theories of academic women but are not involved as hands-on participants.

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the conference?

(35) Attendees responded to question
(5) Attendees did not respond to question

* The conference was great. It opened our eyes to many issues and made us realize that people "want and need" to listen to each other. I suggest that the conference be more publicized next time.
* I learned a lot at the Women in Development Conference and I am very glad I attended. Thank you for all the time you took in preparing such a worthwhile event.
* I enjoyed the conference very much! It inspired me to learn more about femminism (sic) on a national as well on an international front.
* Thank you for childcare. Very good lunch & good entertainment. Cost made attendance accessible.
* Thanks to all involved! Enjoyed hearing the variety of perspectives - also the "Rock" group and gathering times. Congratulations!

* Make the conference over 3 days ie. Sunday. Conference is an awareness, needs to be advertized more so more women can participate. Kindly tell women how they can become members of Match International without donation. Specific topic be given for discussion within groups or strategies for moving forward.
* Adjust air conditioning please.
* Very unusual combination of presenters - good job. Lunch time entertainment was excellent.
* On the whole very good. The idea for having it now in the summer was good.
* Conference was very informative.
* This is the first women (sic) conference i attened (sic). So i didn't really have any expectations. I am vere (sic) happy though, to see what women can accomplish across countries together. I do hope it will grow and that big changes to the better will happend (sic) in the future.
* More time could be spent on addressing women's (sic) issues right here at home rather than focusing on the south.
* It should be done regularly every year, if that's possible. Could we have copies of the results of the conference?
* Could be more specific in terms of developing strategies for change - both locally & internationally; needs follow-up. Great to meet with individuals who are empathetic/active in W.I.D.
* Very well arranged - delicious food - and lots of it. Opportunities for networking during breaks. Maybe have a small informal-type groups - introduce ourselves so that we may feel more comfortable in presenting issues later. "Workshop atmosphere" circle group. I could have been more prepared if I had known to preread documents in handout for next days agenda.
* I look forward to the next one. Would be nice to have a more formal opportunity to meet fellow attendees, ie. small groups with introductions. It would help "break the ice & open the door for further meetings/introductions.
* Should have been more widely publicized, and media coverage should have been demanded (other than CJSR?). Networking/follow-up should be encouraged - i.e. distribute sign-up sheet for all to sign so we can keep in touch and aware of future strategies & events & activities.
* Thank you for providing the economically challenged access to such a conference - $5 was a great deal considering the excellent quality of the conference, the wonderful refreshments, reception & lunch. I enjoyed the majority of the speakers and opportunity to discuss/participate/share. PS. The entertainment was excellent too (relavent (sic) & empowering).
* The food was great! I liked the group work, the conference was well paced - and the speakers were really good.
* Thanks for the opportunity to hear about 1) women, 2) International issues, local issues. Wonderful music. Would like to meet again for a longer confrence (sic) & to focus on action we can take here in Canada, Alberta, Edmonton & rural areas.
* Better room with good seating arrangements.
* Great organization, great speakers, great food! Packages used a lot of paper - could some of the booklets be optional? Could you keep participants informed about future conferences? Also offer contact names/specifics of how to get involved in organizations. Thank you!

* Great conference!! Looking forward to another.
* Slightly better venue - lighting, sound not too great.
* Excellent value for $$.
* Women (sic) issues at home should be addressed.
* We needed to have general introductions at the beginning that has happened in previous conferences with IC and I missed it this time.
* Thanks!
* Joyce Kadandara was an inspiring and vivacious speaking (sic) - please bring her back!
* Excellent food, amazing presentations, positive atmosphere. Would have liked more time for mingling on Saturday after we really got going.
* Good to hear ideas from very articulate & knowledgeable women! The lunchtime singers "Asani" were excellent - so was the lunch!
* Really appreciate sliding scale registration. Wonderful refreshments ... unexpected! Glad to have outdoor walk to and from the breaks. Great to have child care offered. Lunch entertainment was a delight!! Good to see Joyce's video. Teriffic (sic) info. kits. Thank you !!
* Advertise outside of traditional development type agencies ie. See magazine or other mainstream media systems. If a person is not attached to a development or women's organization (or the U of A) than (sic) hearing about this conference would have been really hard.
* What about having women from other countries who have done grassroots work to come here to share their experiences. More linkages.
* Having knowledgeable, committed presenters was the definite strength of the conference. No matter how informed one is we need knowledge, inspiration. Strength of participants and their commitment was evident.